

HAWTHORNE NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT, CARPENTER SHOP
(Production Area)
(Building No. 167)
U.S. Highway 95
Hawthorne
Mineral County
Nevada

HABS No. NV-21-B

HABS
NEV
11-HAWT,
2B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
HAWTHORNE NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT

Carpenter Shop (Bldg. No. 167)

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Location: 115 Area, Production Area
Hawthorne Army Ammunition Plant,
Hawthorne, Mineral County, Nevada

Significance:

The Carpenter Shop, Building No. 167, was built in December 1945 after the tremendous expansion of the Depot during the World War II period. It was constructed in the Production Area east of Highway 95 in the 115 area which includes this shop and 87 High Explosive Magazines.

The Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) is a nationally significant military district. It was built for state-of-the-art ammunition storage in the late 1920s (criterion C); it is by far the largest depot of its kind known in the world with 2501 magazines and storehouses, 212 miles of railroad track, 418 miles of blacktop, and 232 square miles of land (criterion C); and it is significant for its role in World War II. Producing a vast amount of ordnance, it was THE Naval Ammunition Depot for the Pacific Theater during World War II.

Operations have included: production of propellant charges, projectiles, bombs and rockets; demilitarization of all types of munitions; and storage of national stock piles of munitions. Since the 1940s until the facility was turned over to the Army in 1977, Hawthorne NAD was the country's largest producer of Navy mines and depth charges.

The Depot is also significant for the role it played in the military history of the State of Nevada. It represents 50 plus years of federal military operation in Nevada. The Hawthorne NAD is the oldest twentieth century U. S. military reservation in Nevada. It has been in continuous active operational status since its commissioning in 1930 (criterion A). The Depot is the best collection of early twentieth century military, cultural resources in Nevada (criterion C). The Hawthorne NAD represents the largest industrial activity in the State of Nevada during World War II, as well as during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts.

The operation has been the local area's major employer and has represented relative economic stability to the town of Hawthorne since its commissioning. The Depot significantly changed the fortunes of the town of Hawthorne.

Over 90% of the buildings within the 148,000 plus acres of the Hawthorne NAD date from World War II or before. The district as a whole and great majority of the individual buildings within it retain integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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Carpenter Shop (Bldg. No. 167)

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Description:

The Carpenter Shop, Building No. 167, is 24' by 40', rectangular-in-plan, one story with no visible foundation. The exterior siding is 6" horizontal boards. The windows vary and include wood framed casements of different sizes with two light and six light sash all with plain surrounds. The building has a two panel wooden door and a pair of large side hinged plywood doors opening to the loading dock. A low pitched, side facing, gable roof of rolled asphalt covers the building. A loading dock runs the full width of the building on the west end.

The interior of the building is primarily unfinished with exposed stud walls and roof trusses; some walls are finished with 6' horizontal wood siding. The floor is wooden planks. A small utility room is the only interior division in the building; it is constructed of stud walls some with a plywood covering. The building is wired for electricity.

The building was enlarged to the west with a plywood clad addition covering approximately one half of the loading dock with interior space.

History:

The Hawthorne NAD was created by an Act of Congress following the destruction of the Navy's East Coast main ammunition facility in 1926. In 1928, \$3.5 million were allotted for the development of the Naval Ammunition Depot at Hawthorne. Starting in 1935, plans were laid to increase the size of the depot. In 1939 the expansion began in earnest and the depot began producing ammunition and shipping it to classified locations. With the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Hawthorne NAD took on new importance; the Hawthorne depot was the principal west coast naval ammunition plant. Over 2,000 construction workers increased the size of the depot tenfold during World War II and 5,500 workers produced a tremendous amount of ammunition. Bombs, mines, and rockets were filled and assembled at Hawthorne NAD. Mines and rockets were also being developed and tested here.

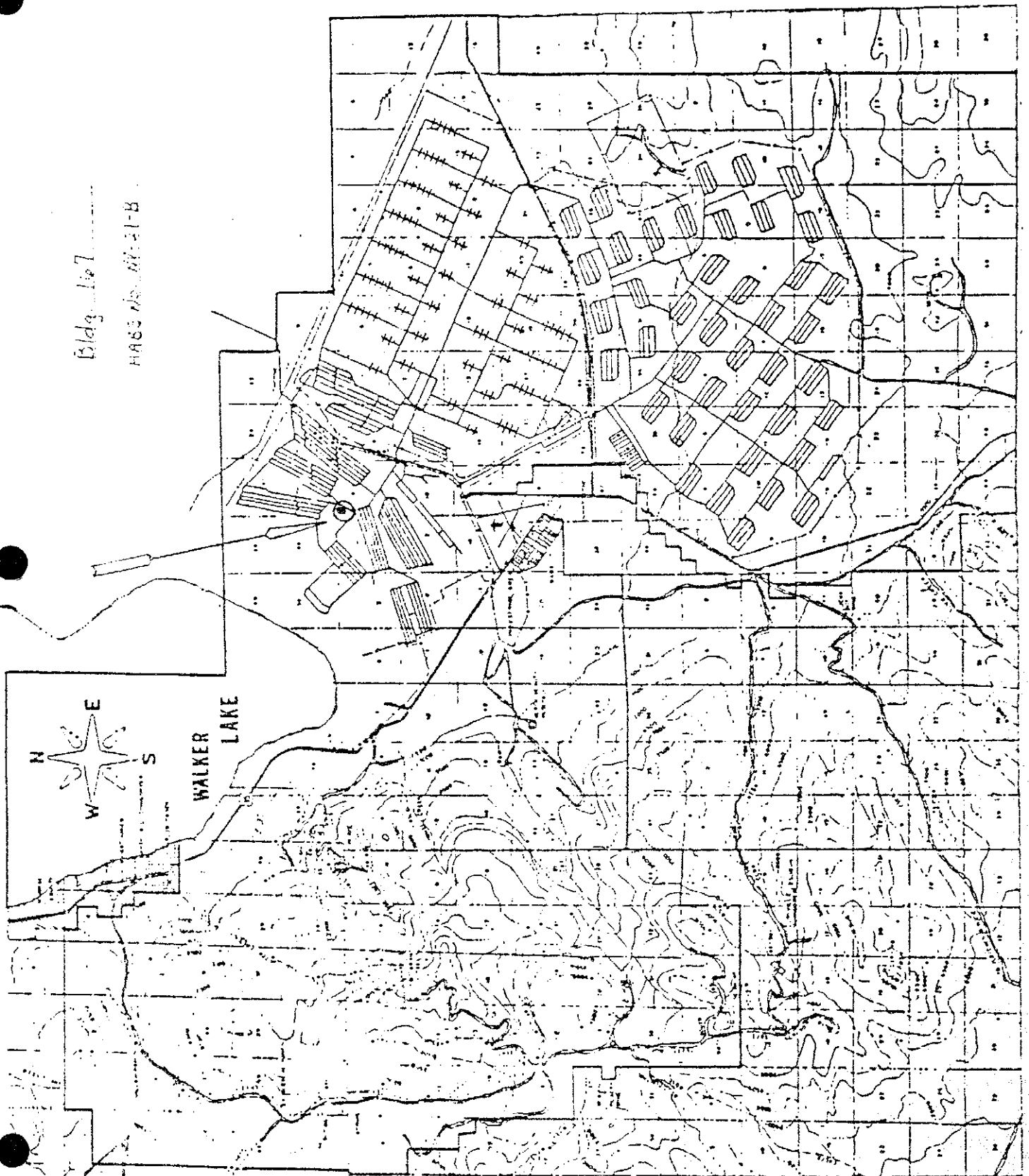
The Hawthorne Depot continued to play an important role in the Navy's chain of producing, storing, and destroying munitions after World War II. After W.W.II the depot was responsible for the destruction of thousands of tons of munitions. During the Korean and Vietnam conflicts the Hawthorne NAD provided back-up storage of conventional ammunition and mines for the entire Pacific theater. In 1977, under directive of the Department of Defense, Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Depot was transferred to the Army and became the Hawthorne Army Ammunition Plant.

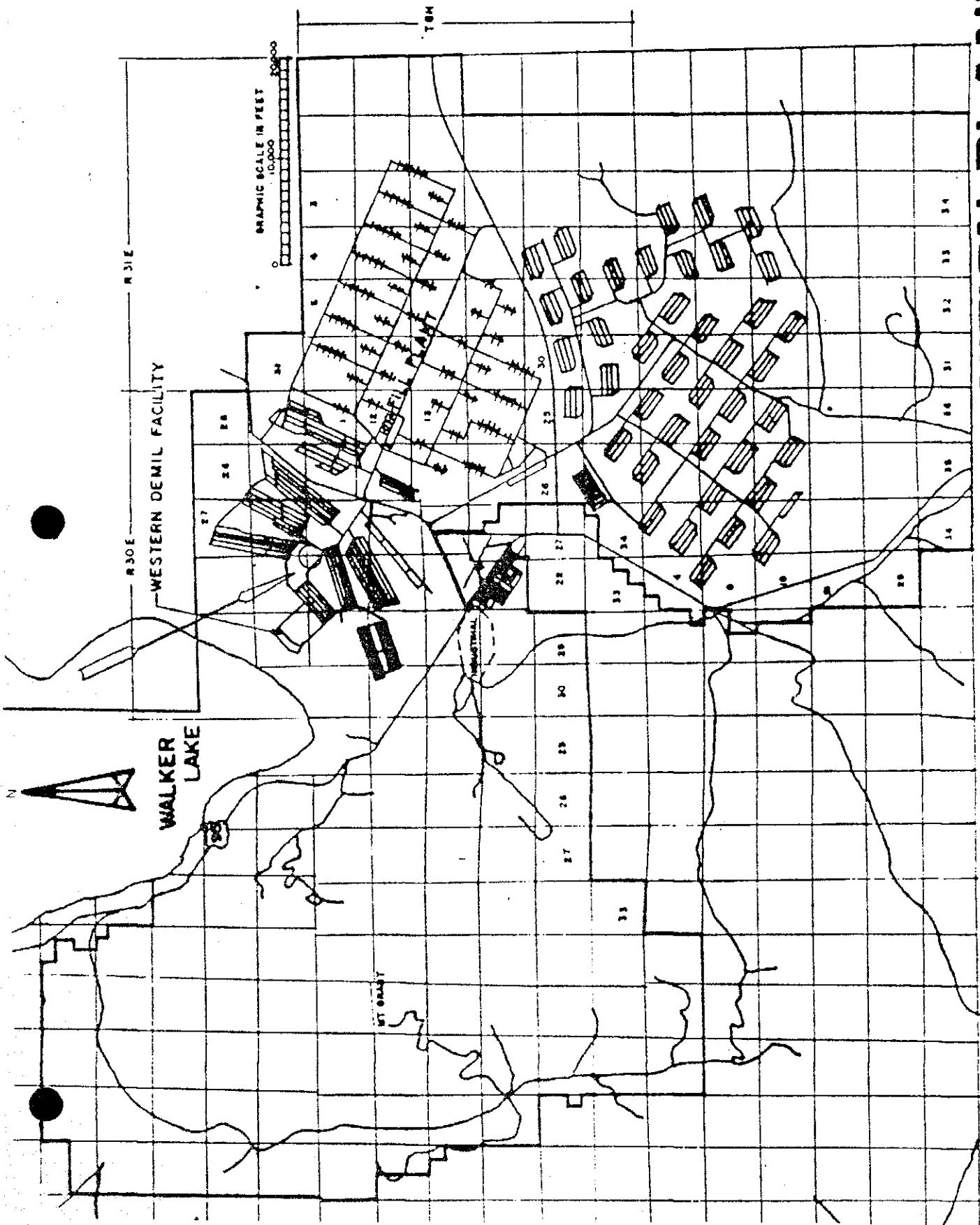
Sources:

Koval, Ana B. "Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Depot" National Register of
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HAWTHORNE ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT

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